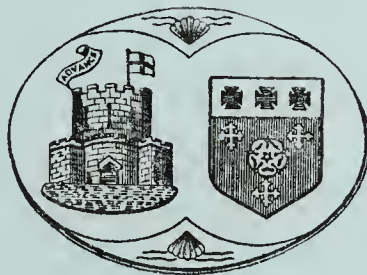


*Div 3 Central
Section*

SANDOWN-SHANKLIN

(ISLE OF WIGHT)

URBAN DISTRICT



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Public Health
Inspector

1958



Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE,
1958-59

Chairman: N. F. Baker, Esq.

Chairman of the Council: E. S. Weston, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council: W. G. Gray, Esq., C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Committee: E. G. A. Carpenter, Esq.

G. E. Boynton, Esq.

D. H. Price, Esq.

J. P. Darch, Esq.

H. Robinson, Esq.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. D. RUSSELL, M.B., B.S. (Syd.), D.P.H. (Lond.).

(Office—County Hall, Newport. Tel. Newport 2261).

35% Borough of Ryde, Sandown-Shanklin and Ventnor
U.D.C.'s (Combined population 39,450).

65% Assistant County Medical Officer and Assistant
School Medical Officer.

Senior Public Health Inspector,

Shops Inspector,

Petroleum Inspector,

NEVILLE L. G. TUBB, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
(1, 2, 3 (Hons.) and 4).

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Meat and Food Inspection Certificate of the Royal
Sanitary Institute.
3. Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and
Hygiene.
4. Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
Institute.

Clerk: Miss S. Hoskins

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1958

To the Chairman and Councillors

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the year 1958 in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health.

As Dr. P. Maxwell Browne was your Medical Officer of Health during the whole period under review, my remarks will necessarily be of a purely explanatory nature.

Statistics

To fully comprehend the information to be gleaned from the annual statistics, it is necessary to look at the overall picture presented over a period of some years. In the compilation of this report an arbitrary period of 10 years has been chosen and only those figures, which indicate a significant change or tendency, are worthy of comment.

General Statistics

The year 1958 had the least sunshine of the decade.

Vital Statistics

The number of live legitimate births remains relatively constant, whilst eleven live illegitimate births is the highest number recorded.

It will be noted that this year two new statistical values have been added. They are (a) Total Live and Stillbirths, and (b) Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births.

A birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population lower than the national rate, and a crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population higher than the national rate, are still to be observed. Both these phenomena being of course characteristic of seaside holiday resorts for obvious reasons.

The death rate of all infants of 13·5 per 1,000 live births, and the death rate of legitimate infants of 14·7 per 1,000 legitimate live births, are the lowest figures recorded over the past 10 years. Further, the figures show that this is the result of a continuing, yet gradual improvement.

Causes of Death

Cardio-vascular diseases and cancer continue to be Captains of the Host of Death. Also, the lung continues to be

the commonest site of cancer. Statistical studies during the year more firmly established the association between cancer of the lung and cigarette smoking. However, there were encouraging reports of an increasing understanding of many aspects of the disease from the Seventh International Cancer congress held in London in July under the auspices of the Union Internationale Contre le Cancer.

The decline in mortality from tuberculosis witnessed in all civilised countries since 1948 continues. Only one death occurred from tuberculosis, and that was non-pulmonary.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases

A measles epidemic of 130 cases is hardly untoward, but one case of indigenous enteric fever would have been, but fortunately, however, it was an imported case from the East.

There were two outbreaks of food poisoning involving 33 people, the highest figures yet recorded. Food poisoning is increasing throughout the country, due mainly to the extension of communal feeding and the increase in bulk food preparation. It presents a complex problem, which does not allow one simple preventive measure to be applied.

Prevention of contamination of food and of multiplication of bacterial pathogens in food, are the two main aims to be attempted to diminish the current prevalence of food poisoning.

Although the mortality from tuberculosis has greatly diminished, there is not much change in the incidence. One would expect the latter to be reduced also in the not-too-distant future by the large scale B.C.G. (bacille Calmette-Guérin) vaccination programmes. A remarkable demonstration of their efficiency was provided by the British Medical Research Council, which vaccinated 14,000 children and compared them with 13,000 control subjects. The attack rate in the vaccinated group was 0·37 per 100 per annum, and in the control group was 1·94 per 100 per annum.

New Legislation

The Water Act, 1958, was introduced to confer powers on water undertakers to meet deficiencies in the supply of water during times of drought.

An order was made under the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, extending the list of works which come under the supervision of the Ministry's Alkali exchequer.

The Litter Act, 1958, made the unauthorised depositing of litter in any place to which the public had access without

payment a punishable offence. It was enforceable by Local Authorities as well as the Police and the owners and occupiers of the places concerned. Hitherto, this nuisance had been punishable only under local byelaws, and it was the hope of the promoters and supporters of this act that the existence of a general penal provision would promote a more satisfactory response from the public.

Dr. Browne, I'm sure, would like me to thank Mr. Tubb for his help and co-operation, and the Sandown-Shanklin Public Health Committee for their support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN D. RUSSELL,

Medical Officer of Health

Statistics

(1) GENERAL

Area of Urban District (in acres)	...	...	3,509
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958)			
according to rate book	...	...	5,203
Rateable Value	...	...	£279,180
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	£1,095

	<i>Sandown</i>	<i>Shanklin</i>
Total Hours of Sunshine during 1958	1648.0	1700.1

	<i>Sandown</i>	<i>Shanklin</i>		<i>Sandown</i>	<i>Shanklin</i>
Jan.	65.3	63.2	July	228.0	240.0
Feb.	55.4	56.0	Aug.	149.2	167.3
Mar.	115.1	122.7	Sept.	168.5	173.6
Apr.	186.9	181.1	Oct.	116.5	119.6
May	244.9	249.4	Nov.	69.6	69.2
June	200.8	208.1	Dec.	47.8	49.9

(2) VITAL

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	12,580		
BIRTHS	M.	F.		
No. of live legitimate births	88	48	136	
No. of live illegitimate births	6	5	...	11
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				11.7
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	1.19
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	13.9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales				16.4
No. of legitimate stillbirths	1	1	...	2
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	—	—	...	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...			13.4
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	149
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	7.5
DEATHS	M.	F.		
Total No. of deaths	100	99	...	199
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		...	...	15.8
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	...	0.71
Comparative Death Rate	...	...	...	11.2
Death Rate England and Wales		...	...	11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths)	...	...		Nil

Statistics—continued

DEATHS

No. of deaths of legitimate	M.	F.		
infants under 1 year of age	1	1	...	2
No. of deaths of illegitimate				
infants under 1 year of age	—	—	...	Nil
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			...	13.5
Death Rate legitimate infants per 1,000				
legitimate live births	...	...	...	14.7
Death Rate illegitimate infants per 1,000				
illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	30
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				Nil
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	...	...		Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-				
births	...	...	...	Nil

Causes of Death

CAUSE					MALE	FEMALE		
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)		
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	1	(1)	1	(—)		
Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	(1)	1	(—)		
Diphtheria	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)		
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)		
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)		
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)		
Measles	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)		
Other infective and parasitic diseases			—	(—)	—	(1)		
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...		1	(1)	—	(1)		
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus			8	(7)	—	(1)		
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...		—	(—)	4	(3)		
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...		—	(—)	3	(2)		
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	8	(8)	9	(9)		
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	(1)	—	(1)		
Diabetes	...	...	1	(1)	—	(1)		
Vascular lesions of nervous system			17	(17)	22	(9)		
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	20	(21)	13	(14)		
Hypertension with heart disease	...		3	(2)	3	(7)		
Other heart disease	...	...	17	(10)	25	(22)		
Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	(4)	1	(3)		
Influenza	...	...	—	(—)	—	(2)		
Pneumonia	...	...	5	(1)	5	(1)		
Bronchitis	...	...	4	(1)	1	(3)		
Other diseases of respiratory system			1	(1)	1	(—)		
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...		3	(—)	—	(2)		
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...		—	(—)	2	(1)		
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	(—)	—	(1)		
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	(2)	—	(—)		
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...		—	(—)	—	(—)		
Congenital malformations	...	...	—	(1)	—	(1)		
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			3	(4)	3	(11)		
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	(—)	1	(—)		
All other accidents	...	...	2	(1)	2	(2)		
Suicide	...	...	—	(—)	2	(—)		
Homicide and operations of war			—	(—)	—	(—)		
ALL CAUSES ...					100	(85)	99	(98)

N.B.—Figures for 1957 are entered in brackets.

**Prevalence and Control of Infectious
and other Diseases**

Disease.			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	130	2	—
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection			—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...		7	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)			—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non- Paralytic)	...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...		33	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...		—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post- infectious)	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			11	—	—
Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)			—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	...		—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	1	—
Total			182	3	—

Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningococcal Infection	Whooping Cough	Poliomylitis (Paralytic)	Poliomylitis (Non-Paralytic)	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid Fever	Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	86	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	130	—	—	7	—	—	33	1	—	11	—	—	—

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	2
(b)	Number of cases	...	...	...	33
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases (Schools return)

Chicken pox	...	...	...	...	14
Mumps	...	...	...	...	5
German Measles	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza and Influenzal Colds	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	63
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3

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Tuberculosis

AGE PERIODS				New Cases				Deaths					
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals
				M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0 and under	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
1 „ „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
5 „ „	15	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—		
15 „ „	20	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		
20 „ „	25	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—		
25 „ „	35	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—		
35 „ „	45	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—		
45 „ „	55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		
55 „ „	65	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1		
65 „ „	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
75 and over		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Total	...	11	4	—	—	15*	—	—	—	1	1		

*This total includes 4 transfers from the mainland.

In addition one patient on the Tuberculosis Register died from another cause.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1958	...	27
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	...	Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	Nil

TOWN HALL,
SHANKLIN, I.W.

To the Chairman and Councillors,

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my sixth annual report on the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District and the work carried out in 1958.

Although Dr. P. Maxwell Browne was the Medical Officer of Health for the whole of the year covered by the report, his successor Dr. J. D. Russell has kindly allowed this report to continue to be presented as a separate section as previously.

During the year the Council amalgamated the Public Health and Housing Committees, making the General Purposes a separate Committee.

This arrangement, with the amended terms of reference enables the same members to deal in one Committee with closely related aspects of the Council's work and has proved to be a beneficial and progressive change.

Mention is made in the report of the overlapping of commodities sold in food shops. This trend, which is increasing, is due to a number of causes and is of significance in relation to public health and also gives rise to complications under the Shops Act in non-food trades.

It is reasonable to assume that the overall amount of money to be spent on any commodity will not vary to any marked degree in relation to the number of sales points in a small area. If twenty shops sell relatively the same amount of a 'line' which ten shops previously sold, the profit margin is spread over twenty instead of ten. This encourages many to widen the variety of commodities they sell in order to at least restore, and they hope, increase total sales.

The sale of cigarettes and tobacco is undertaken by grocer, greengrocer, fishmonger etc. The grocer sells cooked meats, sausages, cakes, bread, milk, and frozen foods. The baker and confectioner sells meat pies. The greengrocer stocks more tinned and packet food, preserves etc. to try and offset the fall in the sale of fresh fruit, vegetables, to cite only a few examples.

The step up in competitive advertising often necessitates the shopkeeper stocking a wide range of different brands of the same commodity because he will probably be asked for a specific brand "as advertised on I.T.V." This often overfills his normal storage accommodation and tends to make it

increasingly difficult to sell stock in proper rotation or to maintain satisfactory conditions.

A greater benefit to the consumer from free competition would in my view come from a return to more specific trading, with emphasis on the quality, conditions and prices in each specific trade.

I would also advocate more specific control of food trades by registration of both the premises and the proprietor, becoming a statutory requirement.

Despite further advertising no satisfactory applicant has been found to fill the vacant position of Additional Public Health Inspector. As the Council are aware this is mainly due to the national shortage of suitably qualified officers. The department cannot give the service it should or accomplish its work so long as these conditions obtain and it is to be hoped that the position will be changed before the next report is written.

My clerk Miss S. Hoskins once again merits my thanks for her loyal and good work in dealing with many aspects of the departmental work which would not normally be her responsibility.

I would also record my appreciation of the support given me by the Public Health Committee and the Council, and of the co-operation given by my colleagues in other departments.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

N. L. G. TUBB,

Senior Public Health Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The main water supply for the Urban District is the responsibility of the Isle of Wight Water Board. This is an ad hoc authority upon which all local authorities on the Island are represented.

The supply for the district falls into three main sections. In order to relate supply and demand particularly during the seasonal months, certain sections of the supplies are linked and interchangeable.

The Water Board, have, during the year, made further progress with their policy of extending, improving and modernising the services.

SANDOWN

The East Yar River and Dyers Springs at Newchurch are the main sources of supply for this area. This supply serves Sandown and Lake and when the smaller supplies for other areas are inadequate part of Shanklin and other districts outside the Urban District also are supplied. The new intake installed in 1957 still cannot be used to its full extent as it has not yet been possible to carry out the alterations necessary at the Sandown Pumping Station, to provide additional treatment and filtration facilities.

Some complaints were received early in the year that water in this area had a pronounced smell and taste of disinfectant. Samples were immediately taken and the results showed the presence of small amounts of phenol. Although rendering the water unpalatable and unpleasant, the amount present was not sufficient to be injurious to health and prompt action by the Board's Engineer and Manager by the use of activated carbon removed the smell and taste.

The source of contamination was not found but was almost certainly the result of chemicals used in horticulture being washed into the collecting ground and subsequently finding their way into the River above the intake.

SHANKLIN

Greatwoods and Cowlease catchment areas form the main supply for this area, although two small outlying parts of the district are supplied from Wroxall and Chillerton respectively.

The complete electrification of the Chillerton pumping station now makes this station fully automatic.

LUCCOMBE VILLAGE

Water for this area is derived from St. Boniface Down. It is treated and then pumped by a new automatic electric pump to the reservoirs, enlarged this year, from which it reaches the village mains by gravity.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

A number of isolated farms and cottages and five private houses derive their supply from four private sources, there being no public supply available. Domestic purification and filtration equipment has been installed in all cases with one exception.

There are a further four private sources used for farm purposes but not for dairy or domestic use.

GENERAL

In 1958, 187 samples of water were taken for bacteriological analysis. The following table tabulates the sources and results obtained.

1958 Water Supply Sample Results

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Untreated Sources</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Private Sources</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Highly satisfactory	10	72	11	93
Satisfactory ...	5	14	—	19
Suspicious ...	2	8	1	11
Unsatisfactory ...	42	21	1	64
TOTALS ...	59	115	13	187

Plus—5 samples from Swimming Pool (all highly satisfactory);

In addition to the foregoing, 1 sample of Chine Water was taken and found to be unsatisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Extracts from the Analyst's reports on samples taken from the public supply and submitted for chemical analysis are given below:—

SANDOWN

“The results indicate a water of high organic purity. The sample is free from metallic contamination apart from an insignificant trace of iron.

“As a result of my examination I am of the opinion that from a chemical aspect this water is satisfactory in all respects and that it is quite suitable for drinking and domestic purposes”.

SHANKLIN

“These results indicate a water of high organic purity free from recent sewage pollution.

“The water is hard and alkaline in reaction. This sample contains a trace of zinc in solution but is otherwise free from metallic contamination. The taste of this water was satisfactory. In my opinion, this sample is chemically satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes”.

SEA WATER SAMPLING

As part of a long term national investigation being undertaken by the Central Public Health Laboratory Service, series of sea water samples were taken to cover varying weather and tide conditions at different times of the year. A total of 248 samples were taken in this connection.

SWIMMING POOL

There is one swimming pool in the district which is privately owned but open for public use.

Sea water is used and is subjected to chlorination, filtration and aeration with a continuous flow process.

Five samples taken for bacteriological analysis were all classified as being highly satisfactory.

Residual chlorine tests were also taken at frequent intervals and showed the chlorine content to be adequate but not excessive.

Sewers and Drainage

Sewers

Two main outfalls to the sea at present serve the district. One serving Sandown and Lake and one Shanklin.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in laying new sewers and the new outfall and in building the new pumping stations and treatment works in connection with the new sewerage scheme. The work is well up to schedule and it is anticipated that the scheme will be completed and in operation by mid 1960. An engineering feat worthy of mention and now completed has been the tunnelling through Arthurs Hill, Shanklin, to provide a gravity flow from Shanklin to the new disposal works at Sandown.

Drainage and Public Sewers (subject to Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936)

The investigation, supervision and testing of drainage work necessitated 405 visits during the year. This excludes drainage of new buildings for which the Surveyor is responsible.

Last year comment was made upon the increase of work found necessary in connection with ex-combined drains which are now public sewers to which Section 24 of the Public Health Act applies. Many of these sewers are of considerable age and have outlived their useful life. Relaying entirely or in part with provision of access, often non-existent, is frequently necessary.

The work in this connection during the past year has remained at the increased level commented upon in the 1957 report.

Public Cleansing

Reclamation of marsh land at Sandown provides the means of disposal of refuse by controlled tipping.

The entire district, with one or two isolated exceptions, is provided with a weekly collection service and certain sections are given augmented service in the seasonal months.

The amount of refuse although lighter in nature continues to increase, due to the national trend in using more packed commodities, to an increase in the number of wrappings of individual articles and to the widespread use of non-returnable cardboard containers.

Where controlled tipping of refuse is carried out, the consolidation of refuse of this nature presents a problem and coverage must be adequate to avoid insect and rodent infestation.

The new legislation of the Litter Act has apparently brought about little improvement so far. Indiscriminate scattering of litter by irresponsible persons still presents considerable difficulty and adds to the cost of keeping public streets, walks and parks, wholesome and tidy.

Camping Sites

As in the previous year seven sites were relicensed for use as sites for moveable dwellings.

Three of these are situated at Shanklin and four at Sandown. One site at Shanklin is licensed solely for tents, and one other caters for tents in a separate field from the caravans. The remaining five sites cater for caravans only.

Owing to ferry difficulties there are very few itinerant caravans requiring temporary siting, sites being almost entirely occupied by trailer vans which remain on site for letting to visitors.

Fifty-five acres are currently licensed, which is a decrease of 6 acres as compared with last year. This is due to a licensee omitting one field, previously used only for organised tented camps, from his application. The maximum number of caravans permitted remains unchanged at 600.

Three licences to station individual caravans were also issued.

None of the sites are residential, being licensed for seasonal occupation only between 1st March and 31st October each year.

The general standard of layout, tidiness and amenities provided is good: sanitary blocks with water carriage drainage, domestic washing facilities, showers, baths etc. are provided. One site has a modern private sewage disposal plant, the remaining sites being connected to the main sewers.

Camp shops, games rooms, T.V. and other facilities are provided. All sites have electricity and main water and one site has mains gas to every van.

During the year only one complaint was received and this referred to the dirty condition of a caravan caused by the failure of the previous occupiers to clean up before vacating.

Insect Pest Control

Whereas disinfection was only necessary in sixteen cases in 1957, the number rose to thirty-eight premises in the year under review necessitating eighty-seven visits. These figures do not include verminous premises.

The infestations were:—

Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	20
Flies	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	11
					38

In addition advice was given and insecticide supplied on recharge to deal with other infestations.

The Council do not provide a service to deal with wasp nests and all complaints regarding same were referred to a private contractor for attention.

Verminous Premises and Persons

Disinfestation from vermin was found necessary in ten cases, from fleas in eight cases and two from scabies.

Minor infestations of fleas appear to be more widespread nationally and in view of the overall improvements in hygiene and housing conditions generally this seems somewhat incongruous, although in many cases animals and not persons are the source of infestations.

Two persons were removed to the hospital cleansing station for disinfestation from scabies and one elderly lady was disinfested from fleas by health visitors and relatives.

In two cases, verminous bedding etc. was removed and destroyed and in the two cases of scabies, all bedding clothing etc. were steam disinfested and returned.

Rodent Control

Rodent Control is administered by the Isle of Wight Joint Rodent Destruction Committee, an ad hoc authority upon which all district Councils are represented.

The County Rodent Officer and his staff deal with all complaints, both direct and indirect, and those found during the course of inspections being made for other purposes.

They are also prepared to advise and deal with complaints regarding other pests, e.g. moles, bats etc., where possible.

Shops

Once again it is regretted that pressure of other work, has made the amount of time available for the inspection of shops under the health and welfare provisions of the Shops Act, inadequate.

The Council are a Shops Act Authority in regard to Closing Hours and Sunday Trading, having accepted delegated powers from the Isle of Wight County Council.

The need for revision and clarification of the existing law was emphasised by the difficulties in which a number of local authorities found themselves, particularly in enforcing the law in regard to Sunday Trading.

The main Act allows authorities in holiday resorts to make Orders relaxing certain restrictions. Even after the maximum relaxations have been made by Order however, many anomalies remain.

There are a number of commodities which the public desire to purchase on a Sunday and which retailers consider it would be reasonable to sell. The sale of such commodities

cannot however be sanctioned by the local authority as they can only permit such relaxations in any Order made by them, as are laid down in the main Act. If complaint is made regarding sales in contravention of the law the local authority have no alternative but to investigate the complaint and take such action as they consider necessary, although the fulfilment of their statutory obligation may appear unreasonable to some.

Complaints

The 242 complaints received during the year showed an increase of thirty over 1957.

These figures do not include requests for work in relation to drainage, repairs, routine inspection and condemnation of unsound food etc.

The broad classification of the complaints received is:—

Sanitary Defects	...	...	...	...	49
Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements				...	46
Rodent Infestations	...	...	...	...	33
Insect Infestations (all)		...	...	...	41
Refuse Collection and Storage				...	15
Offensive Odours, Accumulations and Deposits	...	...	...	...	16
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Grit and Fume Emission				...	3
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	8
Food (Soundness) and Hygiene				...	12
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious Disease, Illness	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	8
TOTAL					242

Talks

During the year fourteen talks were given to various organisations. Seven of these were on food hygiene and the remainder on other aspects of the work of the department and local government generally.

Factories Act, 1937

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1958 for the Urban District of Sandown-Shanklin in the County of the Isle of Wight.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	75	20	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	87	21	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	2	—	1	—

Housing

During the year under review some further progress has been made regarding slum clearance.

No actual demolitions have taken place but two cottages in respect of which undertakings were accepted last year have been modernised and converted into small shops with living accommodation.

An undertaking was also accepted to convert a block of four back to back houses into two semi-detached houses with redrainage and modernisation. The work is nearing completion.

Closing Orders were made in respect of 7 houses during the year, 4 of these being effected by the undertaking mentioned above.

The Council have commenced negotiations regarding the purchase of a terrace of sub-standard cottages. While these are not included in the Slum Clearance schedule, they are in very poor condition and the owners are not in a financial position to carry out repairs.

Inspection of the present housing conditions of all new housing applicants and reinspections in all existing cases before the annual revision of the Housing application list, necessitated 215 visits.

During such inspections, defects and conditions are often found which require attention, although no specific complaint regarding them has been made.

Co-ordinated action under the Public Health and Housing Acts and the allocation of Council housing accommodation has shown the amalgamation of the previously separate Public Health and Housing Committees to have been of great assistance to this end.

Rent Act, 1957

Ten applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year. In one case the tenant withdrew her application and in three other cases undertakings to carry out the necessary repair work were given by the landlord.

Certificates of Disrepair were issued in the remaining six cases.

Two applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair, previously issued, were received and granted.

Apart from a steady flow of general enquiries regarding the Act the main emphasis has been in giving information to those decontrolled tenants whose notices to quit expired in October,

Several applications for an extension of time under the Housing Temporary Provisions Act were successful but in most cases alternative accommodation has had to be found for themselves by the displaced tenants.

The Council have been unable to offer accommodation in any of these cases.

Food Hygiene

National attention to this important subject continues to grow, and the public are becoming more "hygiene conscious" as a result. This is shown by the increase in the number of complaints made by the public and by the nature of those complaints. Some of the complaints received are trivial, but in most cases are made in good faith, and therefore justify investigation and such action as is possible.

Although detailed initial inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 are still not complete, owing to staff shortage and demands of other departmental work, further progress has been made during the year.

As each year passes and renews the annual problem of staff in seasonal establishments, I am increasingly convinced that detailed supervision by the proprietors or a skilled conscientious employee is the chief practicable safeguard against contraventions by the untrained and often disinterested employee. This is all the more vital under present circumstances, as premises are not reinspected as frequently as they should be. In many cases employees are not interested in, available, or here long enough, for detailed instruction in food hygiene.

It is true to say that the best premises and equipment do not guarantee the highest standard of hygiene, but it is likely that working in good premises, under good conditions will tend to make employees relatively hygiene conscious, and to make their task less arduous.

While the present trend is to modernise kitchens with additional food storage space, to use plastic or the less expensive contact adhesive plastic sheeting for table and bench tops, shelves etc. to instal refrigerators and stoves of modern design which are easier to clean, the standard of food hygiene in homes is too frequently below that which occupiers themselves expect in public restaurants, cafes etc. Much remains to be done to educate all sections of the public in the constant need to maintain high standards of cleanliness. That need is usually greater when they are busiest.

Seven talks on food hygiene were given during the year, three to women's organisations, three to employers' associations and one to an employees' meeting.

The following table shows the classification of food premises under the heading of their main trade. Overlapping in the sale of commodities continues to increase so that more shops tend to become "general" food shops.

CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	160
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	16
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	21
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	40
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	89
Kiosks and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	42
Licensed Premises (full licences)	...	...	...	...	...	34
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	6

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

The premises registered under the above Act and Section are:—

(a) Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Foods	...	...	...	...	...	24
(b) Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	160
TOTAL						184

The above figures show an increase of 10 over 1957; 4 under (a) and 6 under (b).

Milk Supply

The whole of the district is a "Specified Area" which means that the sale of ungraded milk is prohibited.

In the district 6 dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-1954. In addition there are two distribution depots and 10 premises from which milk is sold in bottles as received, 6 of these being caravan site shops.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district although most of the milk sold is in fact heat treated.

One dairy carries out the bottling of T.T. milk and some dairy farms in the district supply a small number of consumers direct.

Ninety-five milk samples were taken during the year, an increase over 1957. These samples were taken from dairies, roundsmen and at schools.

There were no failures of the phosphatase test showing heat treatment to be satisfactory.

The 6 samples of T.T. milk which failed the methylene blue test were from three producers in the proportion of 3:2 and 1. In all cases the results were reported to the Area Milk Officer who is responsible for conditions at farms.

The results of samples taken are given in the table below:

Designation of Milk	No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		Turbidity Test		Sat.	Unsat.
		P	F	P	F	P	F		
T.T.	35	—	—	29	6	—	—	29	6
Pasteurised ...	31	31	—	31	—	—	—	31	—
Pasteurised T.T.	14	14	—	14	—	—	—	14	—
Sterilised ...	15	—	—	—	—	14	1	14	1
TOTALS ...	95	45	—	4	6	14	1	88	7

Notification was received from the Ministry that one producer retailer in the district was to have his licence suspended and subsequently revoked. When it was noted that he was continuing to retail his own milk the Ministry were notified. This produced a notification that the licence had been reinstated with effect from the date of revocation.

Ice Cream

Five new registrations under Section 18 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 were granted during the year. This brings the total of registered premises to 160 of which 131 can be regarded as being "active".

Of the four producers whose premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, one has not in fact produced for some years past. Two of the remaining three produce only for retail sale and consumption from their own premises, and one produces for wholesale distribution throughout the Island.

All ice cream for retail sale in the district is produced either from the above sources or from three national producers who have depots or distribution facilities on the Island.

An arrangement between the Island authorities regarding

sampling to avoid unnecessary duplication was continued satisfactorily.

The results of samples taken are given below.

(1) *Ice Cream Samples*

Twenty-one samples were taken and results classified:—

Grade I	...	...	11	Satisfactory
Grade II	...	...	3	Satisfactory
Grade III	...	...	7	Unsatisfactory
Grade IV	...	...	—	

Although 7 samples were grade III it should be remembered that there is no statutory bacteriological standard for ice cream and gradings are provisional. In none of the 7 results were pathogenic organisms isolated.

(2) *Ice Lollie Samples*

			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Fruit Lollies	...	...	2	—
Cream Lollies	...	...	2	6

Again in the case of the 6 cream lollies graded as being unsatisfactory, although plate counts were relatively high, no pathogens were isolated from any of the samples.

In recent years the sale of loose ice cream has fallen, there being a growing preference for the prepacked lollie, block or tub. In premises where loose ice cream is sold, constant and close attention is necessary to maintain hygienic serving and avoid contamination. To illustrate this point a spot check on server rinse water in one instance produced a result showing a plate count of 25,600 per ml. whereas a subsequent check gave a result of 70 per ml.

Foodstuffs Condemned

The amounts of various foods which were condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year are given below:—

					lbs.
Meat—Imported	...	...	...	...	108
Meat—Home Killed	...	...	...	...	16
Offal—Imported	...	...	...	...	28
Tinned Meat (except Ham)	...	...	...	...	371 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	429
Tinned Fruit, Vegetables, Soups etc.	...	...	...	...	1,382 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	...	88 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	43
Cheese	...	...	...	...	71 $\frac{1}{2}$

						lbs.
Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	51 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chicken ...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Bacon ...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Cake ...	...	...	...	...	...	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salad Cream	...	...	...	...	...	15
Shellfish	...	...	...	...	...	85
						2,863

In addition to the above, 2,059lbs. of meat pies and sausages voluntarily withdrawn from sale by the manufacturers were collected and arrangements made for disposal.

Food examination necessitated 142 visits during the year of which 75 were between May-September inclusive.

Bakehouses

There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

There are seven bakehouses in use throughout the year, and one which is used only during the seasonal months.

One produces bread only and has been modernised with an automatic breadmaking plant. The bakehouse used only during the season produces only cakes and pastries for the sole use of that firm.

Four of the remaining five produce bread and cakes and in three cases meat pies are also manufactured. One bakehouse is used solely for the production of meat pies and pastries.

In almost every case the increasing seasonal demand stretches production capacity to its limit. The size of the premises and the number of persons employed, together with almost continuous production on a shift system, results in a falling off in the routine cleansing of premises and equipment which is essential if satisfactory standards are to be maintained.

Shortage of suitable semi-skilled labour and inadequate supervision are also factors which tend to lower standards and hazard the maintenance of hygienic conditions.

Licensed Premises

During the year there have been no complaints regarding the hygiene of licensed premises and the general standard has been satisfactorily maintained.

In three licensed premises considerable internal structural work has been undertaken by the brewers, and modernisation and improvement with redecoration and refurnishing carried out.

It is interesting to note that the majority of licensees have found that the most satisfactory way of cleansing glasses is to soak, wash and rinse using frequent changes of clean hot and cold water only and they prefer not to use any detergent.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(a) <i>General Sanitation</i>						<i>Visits</i>
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	189
Water Research Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	282
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	405
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	34
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	20
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	2
Piggeries and Smallholdings	...	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	76
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	8
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	9
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	50
Insect Pest Control—Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	64
Insect Pest Control—Treatments	...	...	...	...	...	23
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	87
Interviews with owners, builders etc., on site	...	...	...	...	...	37
(b) <i>Housing</i>						
Premises inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	47
Premises re-inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	91
Premises inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	13
Premises re-inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits re Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	7
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	13
Council Properties	...	...	...	...	...	28
Housing Application Enquiry visits	...	...	...	...	...	215
Rent Act visits	...	...	...	...	...	52
(c) <i>Infectious Disease</i>						
Inquiries re infectious disease and food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	75
(d) <i>Meat and Food Inspection</i>						
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	39
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	129
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	37

					<i>Visits</i>
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	7
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	5
Grocers	...	...	...	...	42
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	39
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	15
Milk Sampling Visits (including schools)	...	...	...	...	95
Ice Cream Sampling Visits	...	...	...	...	32
Food (Miscellaneous)	...	...	...	...	17
Inspection and Disposal of Food	...	...	...	...	243
Laboratory Visits	...	...	...	...	95
(e) <i>Additional</i>					
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	72
Heating Appliance (Regulations 1953)	...	...	...	...	2
Shops Act (Closing Hours)	...	...	...	...	71
TOTAL					2,820

Notices

Act	Informal		Formal	
	Served	Complied	Served	Complied
Public Health Act	111	96	8	8
Food and Drugs Act and Regulations	43	45	—	—
Factories Acts	3	3	—	—
Housing Acts	2	1	—	—
Rent Act	4	2	—	—
Shops Act	2	2	—	—
TOTALS	165	149	8	8

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

*Samples taken by the Weights and Measures Department,
Isle of Wight County Council in Sandown-Shanklin Urban
District during the year ending 31st December, 1958.*

<i>Article</i>	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory Composition,</i>	<i>Label</i>
Almond paste	...	1	
Butter ...	...	2	
Bloater paste	...	1	
Caramel popcorn	...	1	
Cheese-flavoured popcorn	1		
Cheese food	...	1	
Clotted cream caramels	1		1
Cocktail sausages	...	1	
Concentrated orange	...	1	
Farm butter	...	1	
Fruit drink	...	1	
Fruitol soft drink	...	1	
Glace cherries	...	1	1
Ice Cream	...	6	
Imported pure honey	1		
Lard	...	1	
Lemon curd	...	1	
Margarine	...	1	
Marzipan substitute	...	2	
Meat paste	...	1	
Milk	...	7	1 (1.2% def. S.N.F.)
Mincemeat	...	2	
Non-alcoholic tomato juice cocktail	...	1	
Orange drink	...	1	1 (Preservatives in excess)
Pure dairy cream	...	1	
Rum and butter flavoured toffees	...	1	
Steak and kidney pie	...	1	
TOTALS	...	41	2
			3

The Isle of Wight County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Urban District. I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for supplying the above details of sampling undertaken in this district in 1958.

Samples which are taken centrally are not shown in the above figures but relate to consignments and commodities eventually sold within the Urban District so that a true picture of the Sampling coverage is not given by the above figures.

